

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13

/072 W

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R 131607Z SEP 76

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, GW

SUBJECT: SCHMIDT DEFENDS OSTPOLITIK, ATTACKS STRAUSS

1. FORTY-FIVE MINUTE SPEECH BY FRG CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT HIGHLIGHTED MASSIVE SPD RALLY IN NUERNBERG SEPTEMBER 12. FOLLOWING ASPECTS OF HIS SPEECH WERE NOTEWORTHY.

2. SCHMIDT CITES FORD PRAISE. SCHMIDT TOLD CROWD THAT SPD'S CHIEF CAMPAIGN THEME "MIDEL GERMANY" IS SOLIDLY BASED BECAUSE IT IS BASED ON COMMENT PRESIDENT FORD MADE TO SCHMIDT DURING ONE OF LATTER'S VISITS TO WASHINGTON. ACCORDING TO SCHMIDT, PRESIDENT FORD CHARACTERIZED FRG AS A MODEL OF POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC STABILITY. SCHMIDT UNDERLINED FACT THAT ALTHOUGH IT WAS A "CONSERVATIVE" WHO SAID THIS, IT WAS AN HONEST CONSERVATIVE UNLIKE STRAUSS AND HIS ILK.

3. OSTPOLITIK/DEUTSCHLANDPOLITIK. SCHMIDT PUT FORTH THESIS

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THAT KINDS OF ACTIONS CERTAIN CDU AND CSU POLITICIANS ARE

PROPOSING TOWARD GDR ARE FRAUGHT WITH DANGER. IF FRG BORDER GUARDS RESPONDED IN KIND EACH TIME THEIR GDR COUNTER-PARTS OPENED FIRE, THIS COULD LEAD ULTIMATELY TO WAR, AND GERMANS KNOW HOW WARS TURN OUT. COALITION'S OSTPOLITIK AND DEUTSCHLANDPOLITIK, WHICH ARE BASED ON NEGOTIATION AND REDUCTION OF TENSION, REPRESENT ONLY VIABLE ALTERNATIVE TO SUCH A CONFLICT.

4. STRAUSS. SCHMIDT ATTACHED CSU CHAIRMAN STRAUSS THOUGHTOUT, SUGGESTING THAT STRAUSS WAS REACTIONARY AND DANGEROUS. SCHMIDT EVEN RECALLED PERIOD OF EARLY SIXTIES WHEN STRAUSS WAS "FIRED" AS MINDEF FOR "LYING TO THE PARLIAMENT."

5. COMMENT: NUERNBERG IS LARGEST SPD STRONGHOLD IN BAVARIA AND RALLY THERE WAS BIGGEST SPD CAMPAIGN EFFORT HERE TO DATE. CHARTERED BUSES BROUGHT SPD MEMBERS FROM THROUGHOUT BAVARIA TO THE RALLY, BUT BULK OF 30,000-ODD SPECTATORS CAME FROM NUERNBERG AREA. EXAGGERATED NATURE OF SCHMIDT'S ATTACKS ON STRAUSS MAY BE INDICATIVE OF SERIOUS CONCERN ON PART OF SPD CONCERNING ELECTION OUTCOME IN BAVARIA.
GILMORE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, SPEECHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MUNICH02158
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760345-0331
From: MUNICH
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760967/aaaacfeq.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <19 AUG 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SCHMIDT DEFENDS OSTPOLITIK, ATTACKS STRAUSS
TAGS: PINT, GE, (SCHMIDT, HELMUT)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006